

Minutes of the Comprehensive Sustainable Energy Committee of November 19, 2007

Pursuant to notice filed with the Town Clerk, the Sustainable Energy Committee (Committee) met at 7:30 p.m. in the first Floor Meeting room at 141 Keyes Road.

Present:

Brian Crounse

Sean Detweiler

Art Fulman

Pamela Hathaway

Vivian Myers-Marowitz

Tyke Crowley

Sally Hughes

Mr. Crounse convened the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Review of Minutes from October 18, 2007. (5 minutes)

Mr. Fulman moved to accept the minutes as written. Mr. Detweiler seconded. All **VOTED** in favor.

Review of CSE web page

Mr. Crowley presented a printed version of the CSE web page and asked for comments. Ms. Hathaway suggested the web page link Mr. Crounse's PowerPoint presentation at the fall Special Town Meeting. All agreed.

Mr. Crounse also suggested to link to an outside blog on energy issues and encouraged the members as individuals to consider sharing some of their information and knowledge on the blog. Ms. Hathaway concurred and thought we should keep adding links to useful websites/blogs. Mr. Crowley also agreed that such links would be useful, but the CSE should refrain from creating any official blog of the committee. All agreed, and Mr. Crounse volunteered to review the value of some of the existing blogs.

Update on Willard School

Mr. Crounse commented that Ms. Myers-Marowitz spoke at the public hearing for Willard School. Ms. Myers-Marowitz expressed her appreciation for Mr. Crounse's presentation at the Special Town Meeting, particularly due to his citation of solid facts and hard numbers. Mr. Crounse said he learned from the experience that it's extremely important to stay on message: Energy conservation/Efficiency is cost effective. Mr. Crowley shared that some studies have shown that people are more responsive to stop wasting money rather than savings, and maybe we should frame our advocacy in this manner for a more powerful message.

Mr. Fulman stated that the architect for Willard School is open to hearing ideas for green solutions. Ms. Hughes volunteered to attend the Build Willard Schools meetings to keep updated and to keep our presence at the meeting.

Update on Municipal Energy Audits

Mr. Crowley presented the energy audit for 141 Keyes Road and gave a summary on its content, value and limitation. Mr. Fulman volunteered to acquire any other audits and will get the reports to Mr. Crowley, who will scan them. Ms. Hathaway, Mr. Detweiler and Mr. Crowley discussed the importance of having some consistency for the energy audits and the different levels of detail for energy audits. Mr. Crowley suggested using the existing audits as a baseline, trying to implement some of the recommendations and reinvesting any savings for more complete audits or to support a building energy manager position. Ms. Hughes suggested focusing the reinvestment on the least energy efficient building and doing a more complete energy audit to get the best pay back. All agreed on this approach.

Update on Sawyer Trust

Mr. Crounse reported that Mr. Howe has not yet informed the CSE whether the Town Manager is /is not supportive of the Committee's general idea of creating a review process for recommending how to allocate the Sawyer Trust. Mr. Fulman stated that he mentioned the idea to the Town Manager, but did not get an affirmative answer one way or the other. Mr. Detweiler volunteered to create a process for replenishing the trust by investing in energy efficiency and allowing the building/Division to pay back the amount loaned and a little extra. All agreed that the committee needs the specific language of the trust and think about ways to create a process or criteria used to make recommendations.

Review/development of tasks

All agreed the following steps should be taken to achieve year 1 goals.

Goal 1: Municipal energy audits

1. Get inventory of existing building and energy audits
2. Start building relationships with town staff responsible for building maintenance
3. Promote investment in recommendations from energy audits
4. Reassess energy audit options

Goal 2: Willard School

1. Continue advocacy
2. Consider if worth monitoring for long-term case study
3. Evaluate whether this project should remain as a key goal of the Committee

Goal 3: Sawyer Trust

1. Confirm if there is any interest in using the CSE as a recommending body
2. If positive response from the Town management, then to acquire the specific language of the trust.
3. Create a process with criteria to review applications

Outreach to municipal, business, residential communities

Mr. Crounse mentioned that the committee needs to get its name and message out to the community, and he still plans to talk to the business community. Mr. Crounse commented that Mr. Crowley's presence on the Maintenance Committee would be good.

Mr. Crowley suggested a monthly article in the local paper. Mr. Detweiler agreed, but thought quarterly article might be better. Ms. Hathaway stated that the article could parallel some of the topics of the articles by the Concord Climate Action group, but focus on energy matters. All agreed to try to get the first article ready for January.

Mr. Fulman suggested inviting speakers on a topic, to which the group all agreed to help with the message. Mr. Crounse suggested Co-gen, while Mr. Detweiler suggested a bio-fuel dealer. The Committee generally acknowledged the benefit of speakers to help with the message of the CSE.

Meeting Schedule

Mr. Crowley briefly stated the issue of time conflicts with the Selectmen's meeting on Mondays and upcoming Holidays. The Committee decided to address the meeting schedule for the next year at the next meeting in December.

Tasks Assigned

Brian Crounse—volunteered to get some information on blogs sites; talk with Mr. Howe on the Sawyer Trust; and think about speaking with the business community.

Sean Detweiler —volunteered to create a process for giving recommendations on using the Sawyer Trust.

Art Fulman —volunteered to get the energy audits for municipal buildings and deliver them to Mr. Crowley.

Pamela Hathaway —volunteered to get information on the articles series proposed by the Concord Climate Action group.

Vivian Myers-Marowitz —volunteered to write up summary of the CSE for the Town Yearly Report.

Tyke Crowley —volunteered to scan the energy audits; to get a list of Town owned buildings; to get heating records; coordinate collection of ideas for handing the Sawyer Trust; and acquire the language for the Sawyer Trust upon confirmation of Town interest in the inclusion of the CSE.

Sally Hughes agreed to attend the Build Willard School meeting and provide the CSE with updates.

Everyone agreed to post on “Google Documents” ideas on process or criteria for giving recommendations on using the Sawyer Trust, and to bring ideas for an article at the next meeting.

**Action Items for the next meeting on Monday
December 17, 2007 at 141 Keyes Road at 7:30.**

1. Update on energy audits, Sawyer Trust and Willard School
2. Possible discussion on the process for recommending projects for funding by the Sawyer Trust
3. Present ideas for January article on the theme of “Energy New Year’s resolutions”
4. Present ideas for speakers and topics
5. Determine time for the January 28, 2008 meeting and set the meeting schedule for 2008.

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tyke Crowley
Vice-president/Clerk